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# YOUTH MINISTRY

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## A New Beginning for St. Ann's Youth Ministry



## Discipleship Groups

### Something New!

The current pandemic has changed our lives and has the way the Church must minister to its youth. Youth Group won't be the same, but that may be for the better.

On June 6, the *Totus Tuus* team will be returning to St. Ann's to minister to our youth to fit current social distancing guidelines and transition us to a new model for the youth program.

Because of the large number of kids the *Totus Tuus* program usually attracts, this summer, the team will be making a direct effort in creating and building Discipleship Groups with High School youth. The team will be at our parish for a whole month from June 6 - July 1, creating and maintaining groups that will encourage teens to not only grow in their faith but encourage one another to become disciples every day.

### Why Do We Do Discipleship Groups?

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#### Questions:

Small groups are a great place for students to express their doubts and ask their questions about faith.

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#### Identity:

Our church and our youth group are too large for everyone to be known by everyone. So, discipleship groups are an intentional space for our students to know a few and be known by a few.

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#### Bonding:

There is nothing like a shared experience for bonding. When you share food, stories, activities, and life together, discipleship groups thrive and students bond.

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#### Spiritual Growth:

The best place for us to consistently and specifically impact the life of a student in regards to their spiritual development is through small groups. The chances we have to consistently encourage and challenge a student to continue to grow in their faith are unparalleled in our ministry through this context.

## The Program

The main goal of the missionaries will be to form small, “discipleship” groups among the high school youth in which they will and begin to form them (or at least open them) to life-long discipleship in Christ.

These groups will meet weeklk, In person if possible (outside, in a large room), with social distancing guidelines in place but on-line if not possible.

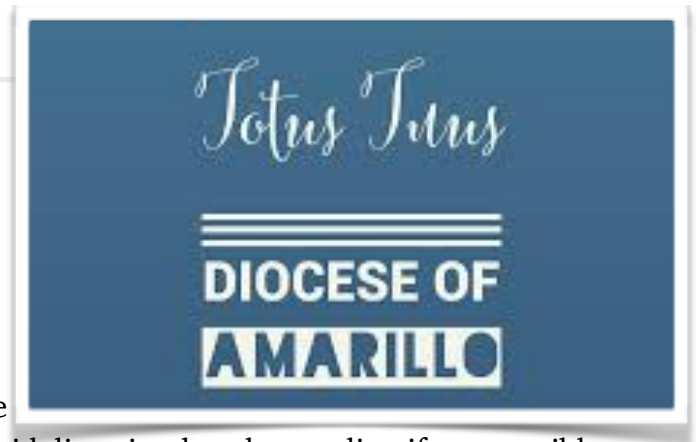
For one hour in the afternoon, the missionaries will be calling those who have been Confirmed in the recent past to “survey” them about their relationship with God and the Church.

On Wednesdays, they will host a diocesan wide Zoom call for college students. This may also take place on the local level if possible.

It is our hope that these Discipleship groups become a foundational aspect of our parish. I have been convinced more and more (especially with the pandemic) that the old ways of large group youth ministry are no longer as effective as might have thought in the past. With **85 % of Catholic High Schooler leaving the Church after graduation**, transforming the way we minister to teens is a must.

We will not get rid of large group Youth nights, but the purpose they serve will be very different in the past. Our Youth Nights will serve as a first step for the youth where they can come feeling welcomed and wanted and form them for greater and deeper discipleship that they will find in the small group settings.

St. Ann’s has wonderful small groups doing great things for the parish and community, with their greatest strength being the commitment and accountability they have for one another. The youth of the Church needs this more than ever. The youth of today crave community but don’t know how to go about it. This is our answer to their need and we are looking forward to walking with parents in making Saints!



### DISCIPLESHIP GROUP LEADERS WANTED!

The *Totus Tuus* team will do a great job of establishing discipleship groups! But once they are gone, the youth will need leaders to continue to lead them in walking the path of discipleship. You don't need to be a theologian or a professional speak. They need adults' willingness to love them by invest in their lives (aka spending time with them). If you would like to know more about leading or co-leading a Discipleship Group, please contact Joshua Dutchover at [jdutchover@stannsofcanyon.org](mailto:jdutchover@stannsofcanyon.org) or call 6553302 ext. 2